

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02 OMB-01

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R 152255Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6724

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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ROME FOR FODAG

PARIS FOR UNESCO

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

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SUBJECT: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF STATE 064907

1. FOLLOWING REPLIES KEYED TO PARA 5 OF REFTEL:

A) WITH EXCEPTION OF WHO, WHICH HAS SEPARATE REP IN NICARAGUA, UNDP RES REP IS EFFECTIVE LEADER OF ALL UN SYSTEM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, UN HEADQUARTERS' APPARENT HOLD ON MUCH DECISION MAKING HAS REDUCED RES REPS AUTHORITY TO SOME EXTENT (SEE FUTURE SEPTEL ON URBAN PLANNING PROJECT). HE COORDINATES CLOSELY WITH WHO-PAHO REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY
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AS WELL AS WITH IBRD MISSIONS. SINCE IBRD'S FUNDING/

PROGRAMMING CYCLE VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY FROM UNDP'S, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSURE COMPLEMENTARITY BUT EFFORTS ARE MADE TO COORDINATE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE STAGE. IT IS OUR OPINION THAT THE RES REP, A CAPABLE AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATOR, IS GENERALLY HIGHLY REGARDED BY GON AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, AS WELL AS Y UN AGENCIES, ALTHOUGH HE NOTES THAT THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING PROCESS INCREASES TENSIONS BETWEEN RES REP AND UN AGENCIES WHOSE PROJECTS ARE PHASED DOWN OR OUT AS A RESULT OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY UNDP OFFICE. UNICEF IS GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON COUNTRY PROGRAM BEFORE IT IS FINALIZED, AND UNDP KEEPS AWARE OF UNICEF ACTIVITIES AND PLANS IN NICARAGUA.

B) TECH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS HERE HAVE IN PAST BEEN COORDINATED LESS THAN ADEQUATELY DUE TO WEAK NATIONAL PLANNING OFFICE (NPO) BUT RECENT GON EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THIS AREA HAVE RENEWED LIKELIHOOD THAT GOOD COORDINATION SYSTEM WILL DEVELOP SOON. UNDP WORKS 100 PCT THROUGH NPO AND THUS CONTRIBUTES TO STRENGTHENED SYSTEM. GON HAS NOT ENCOURAGED UN RES REP TO BECOME INFORMAL COORDINATOR FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE, IN ROLE RES REPS ASSUME ELSEWHERE, AND HE HAS WISELY CHOSEN NOT TO INTERVENE IN THIS MANNER WITHOUT SPECIFIC GON SUPPORT.

C) RES REP IS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE HERE FOR ALL UN AGENCIES (INCLUDING UNDRO), EXCEPT WHO AND REFUGEES COMMISSION. HE PERFORMS THESE RESPONSIBILITIES WITHOUT BENEFIT OF ADDITIONAL STAFF.

D) UNDP IS UNDERTAKING CP REVIEW DURING LATTER PART OF APRIL, WITH NPO, IN WHICH COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR 1977-1981 WILL BE DEFINED. WHILE NO COMMENT CAN BE MADE UNTIL AFTER REVIEW, PROGRAM IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE CONSOLIDATING PROJECTS AND CONCENTRATING ON FEWER SECTORS MORE INTENSIVELY, WITH EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. UNDP SURVEYED ALL OTHERNSONORS RECENTLY TO GATHER DATA FOR REVIEW.

E) NO SEPTELS HAVE BEEN SENT WITHIN LAST YEAR ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR UNDP PROJECTS BUT SEVERAL ARE PLANNED FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT, CENSUS AND BASIC GRAINS PROJECTS.

F) TWO SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS ARE GROUND-WATER SURVEY PROJECT IN WESTERN NICARAGUA AND FORESTRY PROJECT IN NORTHEAST. FIRST ONE PROVIDED DATA NOW BEING USED BY DENACAL ON AVAILABILITY OR LACK OF GROUNDWATER FOR POTABLE WATER USE, AND SECOND HELPED UNCLASSIFIED

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INSTITUTIONALIZE FOREST MANAGEMENT CAPACITY IN INFONAC. WEAK PROJECTS INCLUDE EDUCATION PLANNING, A ONE-TECHNICIAN PROJECT WHICH REFLECTS THE FUTILITY OF PLACING A SINGLE ADVISOR IN A MAMMOTH BUREAUCRACY TO "ADVISE" ONLY; CIVIL AVIATION, WHERE COUNTERPART AGENCY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DEFINE NEEDS CLEARLY; AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT, WHERE EXECUTING AGENCY ORIENTATION DIFFERENT FROM TELCOR'S NEEDS. OF WEAK PROJECTS, FIRST IS NINISHED, SECOND PHASING DOWN AND THIRD RECENTLY

REVISED IN AGREEMENT WITH TELCOR, UNDP EXPERIENCES ACROSS THE BOARD DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING CAPABLE EXPERTS ON TIMELY BASIS. ALLOWANCES HAVE LITTLE TO DO WITH THIS DIFFICULTY.
G) TRIPARTITE REVIEWS CARRIED OUT FOR ALL UNDP PROJECTS IN NICARAGUA, WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN SPOTTING PROBLEM AREAS.

H) ON BASIS RECOMMENDATIONS BY FEMALE FAO TECHNICIAN FORMERLY WITH BASIC GRAINS PROJECT, UNDP INCLUDING HOME EXTENSION ELEMENT IN NEW LARGER-SCALE BASIC GRAINS PROJECT THAT WILL DIRECTLY RELATE INFORMATION ON HOUSING, HEALTH, NUTRITION TO WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS. RURAL POTABLE WATER PROJECT ALSO WILL LARGEY BENEFIT WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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